CAREER FEATURE

First-quarter biotech job picture

A quarterly snapshot of job expansions, reductions and availability in the biotech and pharma sectors.

Several pharma companies announced expansions in the first quarter of 2020. Eli Lilly said in January that it would build a \$470-million manufacturing plant in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina to produce injectable products and delivery devices. The company plans to hire 460 employees, including scientists, engineers, and manufacturing personnel. In addition, AstraZeneca announced it would spend \$535 million to ramp up its R&D and manufacturing in France, including the addition of 100 staffers and an expansion of a manufacturing center to bolster its respiratory division.

In Belgium, UCB plans to build a multi-product biological manufacturing facility at its Braine l'Alleud, Wallonia site. The \$330 million facility will create 150 high-skilled jobs when it becomes operational in 2024. However, the country will shed jobs in the short term as GlaxoSmithKline said it would cut up to 720 jobs in its Belgium vaccine group, with another 215 contract positions unlikely to be renewed.

Takeda plans to sell recent acquisition Shire's \$400 million biologics plant in Dunboyne, Ireland because of excess capacity. The 200-employee-capacity plant will be sold as a going concern with no layoffs intended. In addition, Takeda will invest \$30.5 million in a cell therapy facility and add 70 jobs at the site for the production of a novel stem cell therapy.

Contract research organization PPD Laboratories plans to open a lab in China this year offering bioanalytical, biomarker and vaccine sciences services. "The new laboratory will significantly enhance our capabilities in the Asia-Pacific region, where we already have central labs in Shanghai and Singapore," said Christopher Fikry, executive vice president of PPD.

Advertised biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector jobs in the job databases tracked by *Nature Biotechnology* were slightly down in the first quarter of 2020 (Tables 1 and 2) as compared with the previous quarter (*Nat. Biotechnol.* **38**, 247, 2020). □

Table 1 | Who's hiring? Advertised openings at the 25 largest biotech companies

Company ^a	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings ^b		
		Monster	LinkedIn	Biospace
Amgen	21,500	84	1,133	727
Gilead Sciences	11,000	15	717	3
bioMérieux	11,200	13	35	0
Biocon	10,000	0	2	
Celgene	8,852	177	238	150
IDEXX Laboratories	8,377	0	202	0
Biogen	7,800	0	894	0
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	7,400	0	531	570
Illumina	7,300	137	269	11
Novozymes	6,279	0	10	1
Opko Health	5,690	2	1	0
Endo Pharmaceuticals	2,910	104	0	0
BioMarin Pharmaceutical	2,849	0	251	10
BGI Genomics	2,846	0	3	0
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	2,656	2	353	0
GenScript Biotech	2,620	0	9	0
Evotec	2,617	0	23	18
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	2,500	255	23	0
Myriad Genetics	2,400	98	304	0
Alkermes	2,300	60	212	0
Amphastar Pharmaceuticals	2,078	0	8	19
BeiGene	2,070	0	972	0
CK Life Sciences	1,785	0	0	0
Emergent BioSolutions	1,705	44	226	176
Biotech	1,663	1	281	0
Total		992	6,697	1,685

^aAs defined in *Nature Biotechnology's* survey of public companies (37, 714–721; 2019). ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Biospace.com, 7 April 2020. Jobs may overlap.

Table 2 | Advertised job openings at the ten largest pharma companies

Company ^a	Number of employees	Number of advertised openings ^b		
		Monster	LinkedIn	Biospace
Johnson & Johnson	135,100	2	2,349	0
Bayer	115,500	48	1	0
Novartis	108,000	35	1,479	0
Sanofi	104,230	31	1,480	0
Abbott Laboratories	103,000	1	1,709	0
GlaxoSmithKline	95,490	3	2,688	0
Roche	94,440	0	1,828	0
Pfizer	92,400	0	701	0
Sinopharm	69,720	0	0	0
Merck & Co.	69,000	1	373	0
Total		121	12,608	0

^aData obtained from Statista. ^bAs searched on Monster.com, LinkedIn.com and Biospace.com, 7 April 2020. Jobs may overlap.

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